

THE LIONS PRIDE

WEST ISLIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WEST ISLIP SCHOOL DISTRICT



A Joyful Morning of Sun and Celebration for the **CLASS OF 2017**

Shrugging off early morning rain, the high school's Class of 2017 marched into the Lions athletic facility on June 24 under sunny skies and the proud gaze of hundreds of family members and friends.

Valedictorian Madeleine Gaffney and salutatorian Jack Duffy both delivered memorable speeches. Dr. Anthony Bridgeman, the school's principal, praised the students' character; Superintendent Bernadette Burns urged the new graduates to be kind and considerate; and Board of Education President Steven Gellar suggested that they both be themselves and never settle for less.

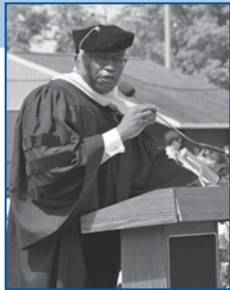
After the diplomas were conferred, the new alumni sent their blue and white caps soaring and headed off to an afternoon of celebration.



Graduation Speech Excerpts

Principal Dr. Anthony Bridgeman:

"The word that captures the essence of this class is empathy. As we reflect on your time with us, your sojourn here at West Islip, let us remember the times that we kept each other, helped each other and embraced each other. Let those times be a reminder to us all that we know how to be our brother's keeper."



Superintendent Bernadette Burns:

"West Islip High School is not the place you've gone to, it's the place you go from. As you do, listen to others, be considerate, think beyond yourself. Remember that little acts of kindness will be remembered long after the act itself. Go from this West Islip High School and do great things as good people. Make good choices, for they will define who you are."



Board of Education President Steven Gellar:

"It's been my great pleasure to get to know, and even coach, a lot of you over the years, so I know from personal experience that you are a special group with all of the traits needed to flourish. I have no doubt that you will continue to make us proud."



Salutatorian Jack Duffy:

"You must never forget what got you to where you stand now. Every day we wake up as slightly different people, from the cells in our bodies to our minds gaining experience. We always change little by little, making progress continuously in the moment, and that's OK. Change is good, you gotta keep moving forward. Just remember all the people you used to be, and never forget the Lions' den that started it all."



Valedictorian Madeleine Gaffney:

"Today serves as the first necessary building block in the construction of our lives outside of this school and this town. This may be a difficult goodbye, but this is just the beginning. There's so much out there, and now we are forced but prepared to face it. Keep an open mind to new ideas, but always remember where you came from, for we will always be Lions for life."



Congratulations Class of 2017



In sports, the baseball, football, gymnastics and cheerleading teams were county finalists; 14 teams won the Section XI Sportsmanship Award; and 169 student-athletes received postseason honors.

For 2016-2017, a total of 16 Advanced Placement courses were offered at the high school. More than 479 students enrolled in these AP courses, including 235 seniors.



The music program boasted three All-State musicians, two All-State alternates and 11 All-County musicians for the year. The wind ensemble and chorale both earned NYSSMA Gold rating; the symphonic band earned NYSSMA Gold with Distinction.

Nicos Prokopiou was a Long Island Science and Engineering Fair semifinalist. West Islip students placed at both the LISEF JV Fair and Long Island Science Congress.



Patrick Carter was named New York State diving champion for the second year in a row, and was recognized as the top male athlete in Suffolk County.



The high school robotics team participated in the School Business Partnership of Long Island's Regional Robotics Tournament at Hofstra University, earning a 2017 Innovation in Control award sponsored by Rockwell Automation.





Tia Accomando
U.S. Air Force

Alyssa Adams
Saint Peter's University

Gage Adler
SUNY Oneonta

Antonio Alicea
Western New England University

Ryan Amedeo
Employment

Christopher Andersen
Suffolk County Community College

Vincent Angiulo
New York Institute of Technology

Amanda Arena
LIU Post

Dylan Arena
University of Hartford

Matthew Argento
SUNY Farmingdale

Elizabeth Aubin
Employment

Nicole Azzopardi
SUNY Farmingdale

Daniela Balducci
Temple University

Tianna Balodis
SUNY Cortland

Henry Barje
Employment

Taylor Barney
SUNY Farmingdale

Hanna Battaglini
SUNY Oswego

Brienna Bautista
Suffolk County Community College
Samuel Baynon
Suffolk County Community College

Emily Beier
Loyola University

Neil Bellinger
LIU Post

Michelle Belski
SUNY Farmingdale

Nicole Bendetti
SUNY Farmingdale

John Berardi
SUNY Broome

Tara Berdolt
SUNY New Paltz

Deanna Berg
Georgia Institute of Technology

Rachel Bernstein
SUNY Cortland

Ryan Beyerbach
Nassau Community College

Joseph Bitetto
Drexel University

Brooke Blindenhofer
University of Tampa

Amanda Bockstruck
Western Connecticut State University

Grace Bolin
SUNY New Paltz

Gina Bonanno
New York Institute of Technology

George Bourous
SUNY New Paltz

Christa Bove
SUNY Cortland

Tara Bovich
SUNY New Paltz

Corynn Brady
Suffolk County Community College

John Broderick
University of Rhode Island

Jack Brophy
Champlain College

Jana Brulhardt
Molloy College

Peter Bruno
SUNY Albany

Ryan Burns
Suffolk County Community College

Amanda Cacamese
Suffolk County Community College

Sean Cafferty
Hofstra University

Mark Cairo
Iona College

Elena Cama
University of South Carolina

Rosemary Cannarella
SUNY Binghamton

Joseph Caputo
Liberty University

Dillon Carrino
SUNY Binghamton

Mark Carter
Undecided

Patrick Carter
United States Naval Academy

Joseph Carusillo
Suffolk County Community College

Matthew Casey
Suffolk County Community College

Casey Cassidy
BOCES - Adult Education

Joseph Catanzaro
Suffolk County Community College

Zachary Cavagnet
SUNY Potsdam

Nicholas Cavaluzzi
Suffolk County Community College

Emily Cavanaugh
LIU Post

Matthew Cavanaugh
Suffolk County Community College
Anthony Celano
SUNY Farmingdale

Drew Cestaro
SUNY Binghamton

Carol Chen
Fordham University

Brandon Cichon
Suffolk County Community College

Robert Cichon
Five Towns College

Colin Clark
SUNY Binghamton

Shauna Clarke
Suffolk County Community College

Denis Collins
Villanova University

Jessica Colloca
Fairfield University

Catrina Conlon
Undecided

Matthew Conlon
SUNY Oswego

Blaise Coppola
SUNY Farmingdale

Griffin Costello
Quinnipiac University

Nicole Cotton
Mercy College

Christopher Coughlin
Fashion Institute of Technology

Jennifer Cox
Brevard College

Brodie Culkin
SUNY Farmingdale

Shannon Culkin
SUNY Old Westbury

Brandon Cullen
Suffolk County Community College

Jordyn Cummings
St. Joseph's College

Kevin Cunningham
Fairfield University

Jessica Curto
University of Tampa

Michael D'Agostino
Purdue University

Samantha D'Antonio
Limestone College

Thomas D'Auria
Suffolk County Community College

Dennis Dadd
United States Navy

Dominic Daleo
SUNY Farmingdale

Joseph Daleo
SUNY Farmingdale

Bryan de Vries
SUNY Farmingdale

Leighann DeGennaro
Suffolk County Community College

Janette Delgado
SUNY Fredonia

Megan Delianne
Savannah College of Art

Alexander Dell
SUNY Purchase

Joseph Delli Gatti
SUNY Binghamton

Sarah DeMilt
Pennsylvania State University

Isabella DeNapoli
Christine Valmay
Makeup Studio
Isabella DeRienzo
Fashion Institute of Technology

Jonathan Desantis
Stonehill College

Jessica Destefano
Suffolk County Community College

Kevin DiCapua
Wagner College

Joseph Diggle
Pace University

Krista DiResta
SUNY Binghamton



Anthony DiStefano
Employment

Julia Donohue
SUNY Oneonta

Connor Dooling
SUNY Farmingdale

Connor Downey
Keene State College

Shaun Doyle
Suffolk County Community
College

Jack Duffy
SUNY Binghamton

Mackenzie Emigholz
Suffolk County Community
College

Brendan Engel
Quinnipiac University

Taliyah Espinal
LIU Brooklyn

Jake Espinola
Suffolk County Community
College

Brian Farrell
SUNY Buffalo University

Ian Farrell
Suffolk County Community
College

Christopher Favarolo
Suffolk County Community
College

Michael Felice
Quinnipiac University

Joseph Feminella
Suffolk County Community
College

Danielle Ferruggiari
St. Joseph's College

Jake Festa
Quinnipiac University

Melissa Fischer

Suffolk County Community
College

Liam Fleming
SUNY Farmingdale

Daniel Flores
Suffolk County Community
College

James Foote
SUNY Albany

Olivia Forcino
SUNY Plattsburgh

Ryan Forcino
SUNY Cortland

Breaden Frawley
Suffolk County Community
College

Natalie Frazier
Emory University

Catherine Fries
Nassau Community College

Madeleine Gaffney
Quinnipiac University

Anthony Gagliardi
United States Navy

Adriana Garcia
CUNY Queens College

Thomas Gatto
Pace University

Francis Genise
Suffolk County Community
College

Christina Gesele
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Michael Gilroy
SUNY Purchase

Alyson Gitzinger
Molloy College

Laura Giunta
Undecided

Ryan Globuscutz
St. Joseph's College

Nicolette Gottilla
Hofstra University

Brooke Grabow
University of Oklahoma

Conor Greene
New York Institute of
Technology

Julie Gucciardo
Employment

Nicholas Gurrera
SUNY Oswego

Marissa Gustavson
Fordham University

Gianna Gutierrez
Boston College

Robert Halloran
SUNY College of Environmental
Science and Forestry

Emma Hannan
SUNY Farmingdale

Shamina Haque
California Northstate University

Kyle Harbus
Suffolk County Community
College

Kristin Hazelton
Union College

Anna Hightower
Gettysburg College

Heidi Hohorst
Fairfield University

Michael Honan
SUNY Buffalo University

Sean Hopkins
Suffolk County Community
College
Natalie Horyczun
Suffolk County Community
College

Robert Huben
Quinnipiac University

Christopher Huckstadt
Undecided

Jordan Ilchert
Suffolk County Community
College

Julia Impagliazzo
Florida Institute of Technology

Brandon Isolano
Quinnipiac University

Jillian Isolano
Quinnipiac University

Kristen Jackala
Nassau Community College

Kaitlyn Jaroski
Suffolk County Community
College



Samantha Jenks
SUNY Oswego

Jack Johnson
Nassau Community College

Ryan Johnson
SUNY College of Environmental
Science and Forestry

Kevin Kane
SUNY Geneseo

Ashley Katz
Suffolk County Community
College

Kaitlyn Keegan
SUNY Oswego

Sabrina Keller
LIU Post

Joseph Kelly
Undecided

Zachary Keogh
SUNY Oswego

Megan Kerrigan
SUNY Binghamton

Dylan Kirshbaum
Suffolk County Community
College

Kelli Klein
Undecided

Kenneth Kodak
Suffolk County Community
College

Michael Kodak
Electrical Training Center,
Copiague

Samantha Kodak
Molloy College

Sierra Koehler
University of North Carolina
Wilmington

Sarah Koffsky
SUNY Stony Brook

Katelyn Kohler
Ithaca College

Julie Kohlhoff
Stockton University

Joan Kolk
Tompkins Cortland Community
College

Tyler Rose Kornish
Suffolk County Community
College

Mecca Koroma
SUNY Plattsburgh

Alyssa Kozik
Suffolk County Community College

Matthew Kreamer
Suffolk County Community
College

Bailey Krowl
Suffolk County Community
College

Carolyn Kuster
Employment

Victoria Labetti
Southern Connecticut State
University

Micheline Lagonigro
Suffolk County Community
College

Emily Lam
SUNY Stony Brook

Anthony LaPadula
SUNY Geneseo

Anthony Latino
Fairleigh Dickinson University

Andrew Lauriguet
Suffolk County Community
College

Emily Lavacca
St. Joseph's College

Adriana Lent
Villanova University

Dominick Lettieri
Suffolk County Community
College



CLASS OF 2017

Joseph Li Causi
Employment

Anthony Lipari
SUNY Buffalo University

Michael Lombardi
SUNY Oswego

Matthew Long
SUNY Farmingdale

Samantha Lu
SUNY Buffalo University

Joseph Lutrario
St. Thomas Aquinas

Caitlin Lydon
Bryant University

Elise Macanka
Suffolk County Community
College

Lauren Magro
SUNY New Paltz

Rumiya Malik
Pace University

Thomas Marino
SUNY Farmingdale

Dylan Marrone
Suffolk County Community
College

Kaylee Martin
LIU Post

Olivia Martinez
Nassau Community College

Samantha Massmann
SUNY Brockport

Eleni Mattheos
SUNY New Paltz

Eric Mauri
Emerson College

Julieann Mauro
SUNY Binghamton

Ryan Mc Ardle
St. Joseph's College

Michael Mc Carthy
United States Marines

Christine Mc Devitt
Suffolk County Community
College

Meghan Mc Fadden
Fairleigh Dickinson University

Olivia Mc Nicholas
SUNY Oneonta

Ryan McSweeney
Berklee College of Music
Carina McCaffrey
Suffolk County Community
College

Robert McKinley
South Piedmont Community
College

Riley McMahon
Employment

Nicole Mecalinos
Suffolk County Community
College

Timothy Meegan
Fashion Institute of Technology

Loudon Meringolo
United States Coast Guard

Michael Mertens
SUNY Plattsburgh

Kristina Messana
Suffolk County Community
College

Kelly Metzger
Molloy College

Devin Miller
SUNY College of Environmental
Science and Forestry

Zachary Mina
University of Hartford

Vincent Minicozzi
CUNY Baruch College

Danielle Minieri
Fairfield University

Matthew Molaro
Hofstra University

Matthew Monaghan
University of Connecticut

Lauren Monteverde
University of Tampa

Samantha Montigny
LIM College

Patrick Mulcahy
Pace University

Michael Muller
United States Navy

Michael Murillo
Suffolk County Community
College

Stephanie Neglia
New York Institute of
Technology

Jayden Nicholsen
United States Navy

Jake Nicolosi
Manhattan College

Antonio Nuzzi
Suffolk County Community
College

Mark O'Connell
University of Rhode Island

Patrick O'Connell
Emerson College

Kelly O'Connor
SUNY Oneonta

Krista O'Connor
East Stroudsburg University

Michael O'Connor
SUNY Buffalo University

Brian O'Dea
United States Marines

Shannon O'Donnell
Suffolk County Community
College

Kyle O'Neill
Felician University

Ryan O'Shea
SUNY Fredonia

Kiran O'Sullivan-Bakshi
SUNY Geneseo

Madeleine Oldaker
Undecided

Melissa Olenik
Suffolk County Community
College

Justin Ott
Employment

Brianna Page
SUNY Stony Brook



Nicholas Pagliarulo
Suffolk County Community
College

James Paidoussis
George Washington University

Caitlin Palm
Quinnipiac University

Nicholas Palmer
SUNY Stony Brook

Joseph Palmieri
Utica College

Angelo Panella
Undecided

Nickolas Parpounas
Suffolk County Community
College

Morgan Paules
Fairfield University

Pamela Penso
SUNY Stony Brook

Zachary Peppito
St. John's University

Frank Peralta
Suffolk County Community
College

Jacqueline Perettine
Pennsylvania State University

Sarah Perniciaro
Pace University

Vincent Petraglia
SUNY Oswego

Kenneth Pettersen
St. Joseph's College

Danilo Pleitez Flores
Employment

Brice Poggi
United States Army

Danielle Pozzini
Suffolk County Community
College

Nicos Prokopiou
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Andrew Pupke
Undecided
Jonathan Quail
Employment

Jillian Rabin
Wagner College

Vincent Raccuglia
Florida Institute of Technology

James Radmann
Suffolk County Community
College

Morgan Raible
SUNY Binghamton

Gianna Raimondi
CUNY Hunter College

Summer Randazzo
St. Joseph's College

Jillian Reale
SUNY Farmingdale

Katelyn Reese
Yale University

Melanie Regan
Smith College

Danielle Ricciardi
Suffolk County Community
College

Jake Richter
Mount Saint Mary College

Thomas Riley
SUNY Albany

Savannah Rinne
St. Joseph's College

Julia Rion
SUNY College of Environmental
Science and Forestry

Kimberly Rios
SUNY Geneseo

Michael Riportella
University of Tampa





Richard Rittenhouse
Suffolk County Community
College

Brianna Rizzo
St. John's University

Gabrielle Roberto
St. Joseph's College

Sarah Robson
Adelphi University

Nicholas Roca
SUNY Canton

Priscilla Rodriguez
Suffolk County Community
College

Brandon Romaine
Suffolk County Community
College

Michael Romanelli
Suffolk County Community
College

James Romano
Western New England University

Anthony Romeo
SUNY Buffalo University

Krystal Rubio
SUNY Oneonta

Edward Rueb
Employment

Amenhofis Ruiz Pastrano
Suffolk County Community
College

Jake Russo
New York Institute of
Technology

Steven Rutsky
SUNY Oswego

Summer Rutsky
SUNY Farmingdale

Nicole Sagginario
LIU Post

Sydney Salatto
Kent State University

Kyle Salemo
Suffolk County Community
College

Samantha Santangelo
St. Joseph's College

Vincent Santangelo
Suffolk County Community
College

Betzabeth Sarango Vizcaino
SUNY New Paltz

Victoria Scheidling
Tompkins Cortland Community
College

Nicholas Schiraldi
Suffolk County Community
College

Kayla Schlosser
Suffolk County Community
College

Peter Schmitt
Suffolk County Community
College

Amanda Scoca
Suffolk County Community
College

Isabella Scrivani
Sacred Heart University

Victoria Scuderi
SUNY Brockport

Anthony Scuoppo
CUNY John Jay College

Lena Seltzer
Concordia University

Matthew Shapiro
Pennsylvania State University

Jessica Shelley
Suffolk County Community
College

Shawn Shepard
Employment

Laura Simas
SUNY Farmingdale

Michael Simas
SUNY Farmingdale

Amanda Sindeband
SUNY Buffalo University

Anthony Sirizzotti
Suffolk County Community
College

Robert Skibinski
Military

Trevor Socha
SUNY Oswego

Kaitlyn Spence
SUNY Binghamton

Gianna Spero
SUNY Oswego

Bridget Squitire
Suffolk County Community
College

Fiona Stockdale
SUNY Brockport

Shannon Sullivan
Fairleigh Dickinson University

Thomas Superty
Employment

Kaylee Surace
SUNY Farmingdale

John Taffner
Suffolk County Community
College

Wahaab Tahir
Undecided

Allison Tantone
Endicott College

Courtney Tasso
SUNY New Paltz

Matthew Tasso
Suffolk County Community
College

Mallory Thomas
Suffolk County Community
College

Hope Thompson
SUNY Cortland

Kyle Thompson
Rochester Institute of
Technology

Nevaeh Thompson
SUNY Buffalo University

Tyler Tomney
Suffolk County Community
College

Melissa Tonn
SUNY Cortland

Rachel Tonn
University of Tampa

Emily Traynor
Molloy College

Cody Trinko
Suffolk County Community
College

Gregory Tsouprakos
Pace University

Allison Ugalde
DeSales University

Rebecca Ulrich
Endicott College

Adrianna Vacca
Adelphi University

Joseph Valentino
LIU Post

Olivia Vermane
George Mason University

Ariana Vigiano
LIU Post

John Vitkowski
Employment

Patrick Viviano
University of Tampa

Roy Vivo
SUNY Farmingdale

Matthew Vomvos
Suffolk County Community
College

Rene Vorilas
SUNY Binghamton

Eric Wagner
SUNY Stony Brook

Ryan Walker
University of New Haven

Brendan Walsh
SUNY Binghamton

Tyler Walsh
Sacred Heart University

Troy Weeks
Suffolk County Community
College

Rebecca Wenzel
CUNY Queens College

Jared Williamson
SUNY Oswego

Dylan Wills
SUNY Oneonta

Melissa Winberry
SUNY Maritime College

James Woyevodsky
SUNY Binghamton

Hunter Wubbenhorst
Suffolk County Community
College

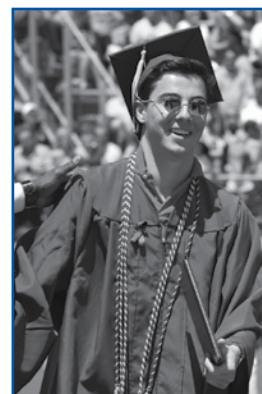
Rachel Youngelman
LIU Post

James Yurkerwich
St. Joseph's College

Daniel Zajac
Suffolk County Community
College

Jake Zigman
New York Institute of
Technology

James Zufall
SUNY Oswego



SENIOR Awards

For a complete list of senior awards and scholarships,
please visit the following link on the district website or
scan the QR code to the right:
www.wi.k12.ny.us/2017-senior-awards.pdf



CLASS OF 2017

West Islip School District
Freyer Administration Building
100 Sherman Avenue
West Islip, NY 11795

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #4
West Islip, NY 11795

Board of Education

Steven Gellar, *President*

Annmarie LaRosa, *Vice President*

Scott Brady

Kevin O'Connor

Ronald Maginniss

Michael Zotto

Paul Michaluk

Bernadette M. Burns, *Superintendent of Schools*

*****ECRWSS**

Residential Customer

West Islip, New York 11795



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<https://www.facebook.com/West-Islip-Public-Schools-889781927736469>



Congratulations to the following retirees for 2016-2017:

Teachers

Thomas Compitello (19 years)
Rosa Contos (20 years)
David Haas (29 years)
Leonard LaPinta (33 years)
Catherine Marro (32 years)
Karen Rose (23 years)
Lisa Scimeca (15 years)
Kathleen Small (21 years)
Susan Stavrakos (22 years)

Clerical

Janet Kehoe (9.89 years)

Bus Drivers

Mary Mahoney (35 years)
Donna Vallely (37 years)

Food Service

Theresa Insalaco (14 years)

Custodial

Hector Perrier (15 years)

Teaching Assistants

Marcelin Pechin (17 years)

Paraprofessional

Jean Schilling (22 years)

Congratulations to All on Moving Up!

